INTELLOFAX 21
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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	22 June 1950
SUBJECT	Hydrogenation Plants in the Russian Zone	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted] 25X1A	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF INFO.	Up April 1949	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

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1. There are still three hydrogenation plants in the Soviet Zone of Germany: Zeitz (M 52/K 08), Leuna (M 52/D 91) and Boenlen (M 51/C 32). Each of the three plants produces synthetic gasoline using the Bergius process. The output of 1949 was said to have been:

   a. Zeitz: 276,000 tons (prescribed Soviet quota); in this manner, Zeitz is fully exploited.

   b. Leuna: 30,000 tons (prescribed Soviet quota). This means only 10 percent of the capacity of the plant; normally, Leuna exploited 300,000 tons, maximum output during the war: 450,000 tons.

   c. Boehlen: 220,000 tons.

2. The poor output of Leuna is due to the fact that Leuna uses only tar. The hydrogenation of coal directly from lignite (brown coal) has not been permitted. The major part of the plant will be dismantled. It must therefore be doubted whether the rate of output of the three plants can be maintained as the production of Leuna would burden the two other plants. Each must cede a certain amount of its own tar so as to enable Leuna to produce the 30,000 tons of benzine.

3. It was learned that a Soviet staff in Boenlen is working on the plans of a modern hydrogenation plant. This work is done under the designation of "Krasnoye". This plant is intended for a yearly production of 100,000 tons. The Soviet deputy, Dr. Epstein, an invalid, lost right arm, insists on the plant remaining in operating condition at an external temperature of -66 degrees F. (-54° C) (sic). Thus it seems that the plant will be built far north in the Soviet Union where in addition a dehydration plant is planned. However, since the Boenlen plant is being expanded far beyond its standard capacity, it is assumed that the Boenlen dehydration plant will be dismantled and sent to the Soviet Union to complete the planned hydrogenation plant there. Dr. Schmitt is one of the closest collaborators of the Soviets.

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Document No. 3
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth: HR 70-2
DATE: 08 JUN 1978
REVIEWER: 024

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His nickname is the "shrew mouse". He was in Ludwigshafen-Oppau (L 50/R 49), then in Poelitz (O 54/C 57) and dismantled the Poelitz Plant. Schmitt is compiling a manual with data on hydrogenation including contacts, for the Soviets.

4. The Zeitz Plant was built mainly for the production of paraffin. At present the chief product is paraffin but Diesel oil and gasoline are also produced. The gasoline has a low octane number (about 58 to 60); the Diesel oil, however, is excellent. For a time Diesel oil was sent to Danzig for the Soviet Army. At first the paraffin produced by the Zeitz plant had a high percentage of oil (about 5 percent). A condensation plant was therefore built by which it was possible to reduce the percentage of oil below 1 percent. A white paraffin plant was also erected and the paraffin bleached. This bleached paraffin had to be shipped to the Soviet Union. Judging from the quality specifications and the packing instructions, the monthly production amounting to about 400 tons was required by the Soviet Army for armament purposes.

a. The major part of the production of 2,500 tons monthly, in excess of these 400 tons, was sold on the black market. Most of it went to the Western Zones in exchange for material which was not deliverable in the Soviet Zone and which the plant badly needs. Among other things there is an enormous shortage of the following articles:

(1) Boiler tubes, non-ferrous metals, steel tubes for high pressures, wire cables for elevators, packing material (asbestos), high pressure fittings, (formerly manufactured by the Ludwigshafen plant for the other plants), piston rods for gas circulating pumps (from Esslingen).

b. The paraffin is sent from Zeitz to Witten/Ruhr (K 52/ 71) to the Imhoff (Bartali) firm by truck convoys. The air lift is also used for transports to the Western Zones. The paraffin is to be exchanged for the mentioned articles.

c. Recently the sale of gasoline encountered difficulties. As the plant had a considerable surplus of paraffin it was used for the production of benzine and oil. It was a success, contrary to the opinion of experts.

d. The Soviet management of the plant was the following:

General manager: Stepanov, recalled by MVD early in March 1949.

Engineer-in-Chief (managing engineer): Jurovski, sent back to the Soviet Union by MVD at the same time.

Commercial manager: Savelski.

Purchases: Kutkin.

Deputy general manager and head of the MVD in the plant: Korovitski, formerly a tractor driver.
Power station: Pankrushin; after the explosion in the Zeitz Plant in 1948 he was transferred to Karlshorst (K 53/Z 94).

The factory police were German.

Field Comment:

a. In the Soviet Zone of Germany there are, at present, not three, as source reports, but seven hydrogenation plants producing fuels. They are in Zeitz-Troeglitz, Boehlen, Leuna, Aspenhain, Rositz, all of them using

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the Bergius process, and the plants in Luetzkendorf and Schwarzheide, using the Fischer-Tropsch process.

There are also some lignite low-temperature carbonizing plants which also produce gasoline.

b. The statements on the production figures are inaccurate as in Leitz-Troeglitz and Boehlen, the yearly production is not 270,000 tons and 220,000 tons of synthetic gasoline. These figures include all primary products obtained in the course of the hydration process. In Leitz the production of power fuel (carburetor fuel and Diesel oil) is estimated at about 190,000 to 200,000 tons and in Boehlen about 150,000 tons. The specialty of the Boehlen plant is aviation fuel (about 45,000 to 60,000 tons per year).

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